

WILSON PEOPLE CLAIM CONTROL OF CONVENTION

"Organization" Smile
at Assurance of Jersey
Man's Follow^{ers}.

BYRD MAY NOT GO
TO BALTIMORE

Believed That Speaker of House
and Wilson Leader Will
Not Be Elected Delegate
Chances of H. M. Smith, Jr.,
Diminishing—Hay for
Permanent Chairman.

Smith Withdraws; Ayers Takes Field

Norfolk, Va., May 22.—In the hope of helping the Woodmen of the World to win the nomination cause, H. M. Smith, Jr., of Richmond, withdrew at midnight as a candidate for permanent chairman of the convention. A movement was made to nominate General Byrd at once, but toward General Byrd, A. J. Ayers, of Wise, and Rufus candidate for chairman, in the belief that General Ayers will get Southwest votes and that the convention will not turn him down. While the Byrd movement is making, it will oppose Congressman Smith and Hay, the organization candidate.

In a statement to-night, Speaker Byrd further throws down the gauntlet to the "machine," saying that the Democrats of the State are as competent to express their choice for President as are a few politicians. He announces that he will fight to the last ditch to remove the "machine" from the party.

BY ALEXANDER FORWARD.
Norfolk, Va., May 22.—“We have t
convention for Woodrow Wilson
jubilantly announced Richard El
Byrd, Speaker of the House of De
gates, at the conclusion of a meeti
of the New Jersey man's followe
held last night at his headquarters
the Munroe Hotel. There was a
thousandism in marked degree, and
gathering was largely attended.
was rather significant, however, th
although the roll of counties, a
cities was called to ascertain the
strength, no announcement of t
result was made.

"I think we can say," said one of the secretaries, "that we have a First, Second, Seventh and Tenth district by good majorities, and we are strong in all."

Speaker Byrd, who presided over the meeting, explained that no response was had from some Wisconsin counties because their delegations have not yet arrived.

Smile at Wilson Claims.

Organization leaders smile at the claim that Wilson followers will control the State Democratic Convention when it meets to-morrow. They are as confident as ever that the delegation to Baltimore will be unopposed, and that no resolution of any sort will be passed favoring the candidacy of any one.

The speech made to-night at the Wilson meeting by H. M. Smith, Jr. of Richmond, may cost him his seat in the Baltimore convention as punishment for his temerity. He manifested a good deal of bitterness regarding the way in which Wilson's sentiment, as he sees the situation has been stifled in this State.

"The development of the past few months in Virginia," shouted Mr. Smith, "have convinced me of the desirability of presidential preference."

"More than that," said Mr. Smith. "I announce my conversion for the first time to the principle of the recall."

The evident allusion to party leaders was loudly cheered. Mr. Smith said he didn't, of course, speak for the judges in his reference to the remarks. Remarks of this kind attributed to a Richmond lawyer as having been made during the day have caused party leaders to talk as if he will not be elected. But, in any case, even, although the application of the rule would prevent the casting of his vote for Governor Wilson.

Other speakers at the Wilson meeting were Speaker Byrd, Harry George Tucker and W. G. McAdoo, New Market, who made a stirring argument, the Wilson people hurried to the lobby, shouting for their favorite.

To avoid a fight, organization men have made numerous overtures to deal with the matter in a friendly way. One of these, apparently coming from Representative H. D. Flood, was provided, electing eight men with half vote each and giving them the right to vote on the bill for the sake of harmony that Mr. Flood would be willing to step aside as a delegate-at-large a permit Speaker Byrd, the Wilson leader, to go on in the Wilson camp.

Propositions Cast Aside.

All propositions were thrown to the winds by the Wilson meeting to-night. A motion offered by former Senator Aubrey E. Strode, of Asheville, that the bill be taken up to-morrow, was defeated by a two-thirds vote. The fight for Wilson be carried into every district meeting to-morrow. It will be war to the last ditch.

Half a dozen Wilson men on the Virginia coast, who had intimated would be no effect if the majority is opposed to the New Jersey Governor. The time-honored rule of the Virginia democracy is that the delegate is a knight, and he is not to be trifled with. It seems very doubtful now if Speaker

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